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(54) NEW PROTEIN

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a new protein, which is one kind of matrix metalloproteinase(MMP), having an ability to activate a latent type gelatinase A and natural murine MT-MMP activities and useful for diagnosis, etc., of the presence or absence of cancer cells and the malignancy of cancers.

SOLUTION: This new protein is a new protein (salt) derived from a mouse which is one kind of matrix metalloproteinase(MMP) having an ability to activate a latent type gelatinase A and activities of natural

murine MT-MMP which is a latent type gelatinase A activating factor other than murine MT 1-MMP or activities substantially equal thereto. The protein is useful for diagnosis, treatment, etc., of cancers such as diagnosis, etc., of the malignancy of the cancers. Furthermore, the protein is obtained by screening a murine pulmonary cDNA library with a human MT1-MMP cDNA fragment as a probe, integrating the resultant gene into a vector, transferring the resultant gene into a host cell such as Escherichia coli and expressing the gene.

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